

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

1 8. **(Original)** A nail clipping assembly including a pair of nail clippers for clipping a
2 finger or toe nail, said nail clippers having an upper arm and a lower arm, each arm
3 having a blade end and a joined end and said upper and lower arms being joined at
4 their joined ends and said upper arm having an upper blade at its blade end and said
5 lower arm having a lower blade at its blade end, said upper and lower blades being
6 aligned to meet to form a cutting line and an operating lever held to said pair of nail
7 clippers so that the depression of said operating lever causes said upper blade to move
8 downwardly and meet said lower blade to create a cutting action wherein the
9 improvement comprises:

10 a holder having a hand graspable portion, a top portion including a
11 nail clipper holding area, a bottom, a back and a cutting end, said holder
12 supporting a light source at its cutting end and said holder having a pair of
13 fingernail guides extending forwardly with respect to said cutting line and
14 positioned so that a bottom edge of each fingernail guide is horizontally
15 aligned between a lowermost portion of said upper blade and an
16 uppermost portion of the lower blade when said nail clippers are oriented
17 horizontally whereby a subject's fingernail is guided into a space between
18 said upper and lower blades.

1 9. **(Previously presented)** The nail clipping assembly of claim 8 wherein said
2 fingernail guides are horizontally spaced to expose a majority of the subject's fingernail
3 at a line where the fingernail extends outwardly from the subject's finger when the finger
4 is in a cutting position with the finger located in the space between said upper and lower
5 blades.

10. **(Previously presented)** The nail clipping assembly of claim 8 wherein said nail clipper holding area is a recess which extends upwardly from a floor to cover sides of said nail clipper.

1 11. **(Previously presented)** An ergonomic handle for supporting a nail clipper having
2 an upper arm and a lower arm, each arm having a blade end and a joined end and said
3 upper and lower arms being joined at their joined ends and said upper arm having an
4 upper blade at its blade end and said lower arm having a lower blade at its blade end,
5 said upper and lower blades being aligned to meet to form a cutting line and an
6 operating lever held to said pair of nail clippers so that a depression of said operating
7 lever causes said upper blade to move downwardly and meet said lower blade to create
8 a cutting action, said handle comprising:

9 a hand graspable handle of sufficient girth and length to permit a
10 user's hand to surround the graspable handle so that the user's palm is on
11 a first side of the handle and a users's fingers grasp the opposite side and
12 the user's thumb extends over a top edge of the hand graspable handle;

13 a nail clipper recess formed in said top edge and said nail clipper
14 recess being shaped to surround sides of a pair of nail clippers, and
15 having a bottom upon which a pair of nail clippers can rest and a back end
16 portion to prevent the rearward movement of the pair of nail clippers with
17 respect to said handle and the nail clipper recess having an open front
18 end to permit a user to insert a fingernail in a clipping portion of said pair
19 of nail clippers whereby a pair of nail clippers can be easily supported by
20 a user's hand during a nail clipping operation; and

21 wherein said hand graspable handle has a pair of opposed
22 fingernail guides extending inwardly at said open front end and positioned
23 so that when a pair of nail clippers is inserted in said nail clipper recess
24 the opposed fingernail guides extend beyond a front edge of said pair of
25 nail clippers and a bottom edge of each of said opposed fingernail guides

26 is horizontally aligned between a lowermost portion of said upper blade
27 and an uppermost portion of said lower blade of said pair of nail clippers.

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Original)** The ergonomic handle of claim 11 wherein said nail clipper recess has an upwardly extending tab for passing through a hole in a rear end of said pair of nail clippers.

14. **(Original)** The ergonomic handle of claim 11 wherein said hand graspable handle curves upwardly toward its front end.

15-20 **(Cancelled)**

1 21. **(Previously presented)** A method for cutting a child's fingernails using finger nail
2 clippers, the method comprising:
3 turning on a light residing in a forward portion of a handle, the handle supporting
4 said finger nail clippers;
5 holding a hand graspable portion of the handle between a care giver's fingers
6 and palm;
7 resting an index finger proximal to and behind blades of the finger nail clippers,
8 on a rest provided by cooperation of the forward portion and a transition portion, the
9 forward portion having a smaller cross-section than the hand graspable portion and the
10 transition portion residing between the forward portion and the hand graspable portion;
11 positioning the light close to a finger tip;
12 illuminating an interior of a finger under the finger nail so that the interior of the
13 finger glows, wherein the glowing causes a nail ledge to be distinguishable;
14 positioning blades of the fingernail clippers to clip the nail ledge from the finger
15 nail; and
16 depressing an operating lever to cut the finger nail.

1 22. **(Currently amended)** A method for cutting a child's fingernails, the method
2 comprising:

3 turning on a light residing in a forward portion of a handle beneath fingernail
4 clipper blades, the handle supporting finger nail clippers;

5 ~~holding the handle in a care giver's hand~~ holding a hand graspable portion of the
6 handle between the care giver's fingers and palm ;

7 resting the index finger proximal to and behind blades of the finger nail clippers
8 on a rest provided by cooperation of the forward portion and a transition portion, the
9 forward portion having a smaller cross-section than the hand graspable portion and the
10 transition portion residing between the forward portion and the hand graspable portion;

11 positioning the handle to position the light close to the end of a child's finger
12 having a finger interior;

13 illuminating the finger interior under the finger nail using the light;

14 positioning blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail; and

15 depressing an operating lever to cut the finger nail.

23. **(Cancelled)**

24. **(Cancelled)**

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Cancelled)**

27. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein positioning the handle
to position the light close to the end of the child's finger comprises positioning the
handle to position the light within 1/8 inch of the end of the child's finger.

28. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein positioning the handle to position the light close to the end of the child's finger comprises positioning the handle close enough to the end of the child's finger to illuminate the interior of the child's finger.

29. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 28, wherein positioning the handle to position the light close to the end of the child's finger comprises positioning the handle close enough to the end of the child's finger to illuminate the interior of the child's finger and to cause a nail ledge to appear dark in color.

30. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein positioning the handle to position the light close to the end of the child's finger comprises positioning the handle close enough to the end of the child's finger to cause the light to touch the child's finger.

31. **(Currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 22~~ A method for cutting a child's fingernails, the method comprising:

turning on a light residing in a forward portion of a handle beneath fingernail clipper blades, the handle supporting finger nail clippers;

holding the handle in a care giver's hand;

positioning the handle to position the light close to the end of a child's finger having a finger interior;

illuminating the finger interior under the finger nail using the light;

positioning blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail using at least one guide to assist in positioning the blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail; and

depressing an operating lever to cut the finger nail; ~~wherein positioning blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail comprises using at least one guide to assist in position the blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail.~~

32. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 31, wherein positioning blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail comprises using at least one guide to position the blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail, wherein most of an extending part of the finger nail is observable through the at least one guide.

33. **(Previously presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein positioning blades of the fingernail clippers to cut the finger nail comprises:

observing the illuminated finger interior to distinguish a nail ledge; and
positioning the blades to based on the observation of the nail ledge.

34, **(New)** The method of Claim 21, wherein illuminating an interior of a finger under the finger nail to visually distinguish a nail ledge comprises illuminating an interior of a finger under the finger nail to cause the nail ledge to appear dark in contrast to the finger tip.